

Comparison of Colonies



A century after Columbus sailed the ocean blue, Great Britain's dreams would finally come true. In 1607, Britain established the first English settlement in the New World, Jamestown. This led to the establishment of the British colonies of Virginia, Massachusetts, all the way until the final colony Georgia. And although many may think that the colonies operated as one similar unit, the truth is all the colonial regions were very similar and different in social, political and economical structure.

Throughout history, education was always important; this was the same for the colonies. Therefore, in all three colonial regions, education was offered to white boys. In the New England colonies, education was more common since the population was dense. However, in the Southern colonies education was not as common since people were spread far apart. This made it hard to find space to build schools; so instead, the rich hired tutors for their sons.

Religion was also very big in the colony. Each region had contrasting religion and ethnicity. In New England, Puritans dominated the area and established congregational churches. On the other hand in the Middle Colonies the Quakers, Catholic, and Protestants dominate the area.

And in the South, the church of England dominated. Great colonies need great governments. The political structure in all colonial regions were similar and different. All of the colonies had governments, and governors leaded these governments. Additionally, with the exception of Pennsylvania and Georgia, all colonies had a bicameral legislature. Another similarity between the colonies was that only white males with property could vote. Although the colonies were similar in many political ways they were also very different. In New England, township government was the local form of

government since everyone was so close. However, in the Southern colonies, county government was used since everyone was spread so far apart.

The Middle colonies used a mix of both town and county government. Lastly, economy was both similar and different in the regions. The south used mainly slaves in the workforce; in fact, by 1760, there was approximately 400, 000 slaves in the south. However, in New England, farmers raised their own workforce. It wasn't uncommon to see a family of over ten. Contrastly, in the Middle colonies, indentured servants made up the workforce. The industries in each colony was determined by the geography; therefore industry varied in each region.

In the New England colonies, the main industries were fishing, whaling, shipbuilding, lumbering, and making beaver hats. This was not the same in the Middle colonies; their industries included beer, fur, glass, gun, iron, livestock, wagon, grains, and iron. On the other hand, the Southern colonies relied on mainly the tobacco industry. Some industrial similarities between the as were that tobacco was a main crop of the Middle and the Southern colonies and agriculture was very common in all the colonies.

Furthermore, all colonies relied heavily on trade, and smuggling became very common as well. Also currency was not used in any of the colonies because they had no metal due to the theory of mercantilism. In 1607, the settlement of Jamestown was established. Following Jamestown, Britain would plant a total of thirteen colonies over the next hundred years. These colonies can be grouped into three regions. The social, political, and economical structure of the colonial regions were very similar and different. What would one day become the great United States of America, was once

only thirteen colonies, separated into three regions, and founded by one mother country.